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A Word From Tim Downs - June 2012



Dear Friends,

The theme of our 2012 Annual Meeting, Cultivating a Culture of Call, reflects a priority our conference has engaged through the TAP program, and now through PATHWAYS, through developing our relationship with Lancaster Theological Seminary, and through working with our churches. The priority is that of identifying, cultivating and equipping leadership for the emerging United Church of Christ.



The meeting will feature workshops, a keynoter, Rev. Holly MillerShank, Executive Minister of MESA (Ministry Excellence, Support and Authorization) of the national church, and many opportunities to share together ways in which we can be a "generative" conference in the developing of leadership.

There is of course more to our Annual Meeting. This is a time of gathering and fellowship for us. Some years ago a colleague attending the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting for the first time remarked to me, "the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference is like Brigadoon. It rises out of the mists each year at the same time, and its people gathering, sing, dance, feast and celebrate, then it fades back into the mists, to gather again in another year." We are a people who have been challenged by the distances that separate us, the diversities of the cultures which we nurture, and so much more. But there remains a special bond that is greater than all that has sought to tug us apart through the years, the bond of unity that we know in the Christ who heals, reconciles and restores to wholeness. I hope you will be able to be with us in Birmingham to let the generous Southern hospitality wash over you, share fellowship, and celebrate and worship together with sisters and brothers from across our five states. The theme of our 2012 Annual Meeting, Cultivating a Culture of Call, reflects a priority our conference has engaged through the TAP program, and now through PATHWAYS, through developing our relationship with Lancaster Theological Seminary, and through working with our churches. The priority is that of identifying, cultivating and equipping leadership for the emerging United Church of Christ. The meeting will feature workshops, a keynoter, Rev. Holly MillerShank, Executive Minister of MESA (Ministry Excellence, Support and Authorization) of the national church, and many opportunities to share together ways in which we can be a "generative" conference in the developing of leadership. There is of course more to our Annual Meeting. This is a time of gathering and fellowship for us. Some years ago a colleague attending the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting for the first time remarked to me, "the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference is like Brigadoon. It rises out of the mists each year at the same time, and its people gathering, sing, dance, feast and celebrate, then it fades back into the mists, to gather again in another year." We are a people who have been challenged by the distances that separate us, the diversities of

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Church and civic leaders loudly proclaim, 'We have faith, in Cleveland!'

"Faith, In" pilot program kicks off at noon news conference in the heart of downtown Cleveland



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Peace,

Tim Downs
Conference Minister

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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